

Lea-Marie Karney  
19-19 23<sup>rd</sup> Road  
Astoria, NY 11105

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket Nos. : 98N-1230; 96P-04 18; 97P-0 197

In April, 1998, the FDA was petitioned to ban forced molting. This petition must be granted without further delay.

The FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices and, among countless others, this includes the forced molting of hens. Forced molting is done by deliberately withholding both food and water to the hens, and their molting is a sign that their immune system is critically stressed. Fortunately, what goes around comes around, and the more cruelly these poor hens are treated, the less their immune systems can fight off dangerous and infectious diseases; guess who is the final recipient of these diseases and bacteria, including Salmonella poisoning?

It is bad enough that these poor hens are packed into cages or held all their lives in one position, their beaks cut, forced to exist in their own excrement, and generally living lives of pure hell. In the summer of 1998, a heat wave in Texas killed off countless numbers of them, without it being noticed that had they been treated well, it could hardly have done that: their natural habitat in the wild is in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

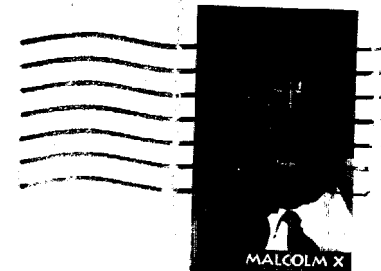
*CRUELTY AND CONTAMINATION ARE LINKED.* Tell your "supporters" in the factory farm industry that if they want to make money by killing their customers, then either they should be in the arms industry or the pharmaceutical industry.



96P-0418

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DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

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# CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ C175~

See File Number: 97P-0197/ C 1 76  
96P-0418/ C175~